

REMARKS

Claims 1, 18, 20, 30, 37, 56, and 65 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-65 are pending.

Claims 65-66 and 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Houg (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,596). Claims 67-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houg. Claims 65-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackmon (U.S. Patent No. 6,513,091). Claims 1-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackmon and Houg. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 18 recite, *inter alia*, "A method of transferring data in a processor based system, the system comprising a hub device ... said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus having a status line, said method comprising the steps of:"

Claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, "A method of receiving data in a processor based system, the system comprising a hub device ... said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus having a status line, said method comprising the steps of:...."

Claim 30 recites, *inter alia*, "A method of transferring data in a processor based system, the system comprising a hub device ... said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus having a status line, said method comprising the steps of:...."

Claim 37 recites, *inter alia*, "A processor system comprising: ... a link bus directly connected between said link hub and said satellite device, said link bus comprising a status line and a first bus,"

Claim 56 recites, *inter alia*, "A processor system comprising: ... a link bus directly connected between said link hub and said satellite device, said link bus comprising a status line and a first bus,"

Claim 65 recites, *inter alia*, "A processor system comprising: ... a link bus directly connected between said link hub and said satellite device, said link bus comprising a status line and a first bus,"

Blackmon is directed to a method and apparatus for routing data between bus devices. The method and apparatus of Blackmon is perhaps best understood with reference to the embodiment of Fig. 1, in which Blackmon discloses a system including a bus which is comprised of a plurality of point-to-point connections (36A, 36B, 36C, 36D) between a switch (34) and individual bus devices (32A, 32B, 32C, 32D). Each point-to-point connection is comprised of a data bus 40 and an address bus 38. After a command is issued on the bus, each bus device (32A, 32B, 32C, 32D) responds by transmitting a status response on an associated status line (37A, 37B, 37C, 37D) to a response combining logic (42), which determines which bus device (32A, 32B, 32C, 32D) responded with a positive acknowledgement and forwards a device identifier corresponding to that bus device to the switch (34) over an link (44) to the switch (34) then routes the data transfer associated with the command to the bus device. The status lines (37A, 37B, 37C, 37D) and the link 44, whether taken singly or in combination, are independent of the point-to-point connections (36A, 36B, 36C, 36D). That is, while each of the point-to-point connections (36A, 36B, 36C, 36D) is coupled to

the switch (34), none of the status lines (37A, 37B, 37C, 37D) are coupled to the switch (34).

The Office Action refers to the embodiment disclosed by Fig. 3, which operates in a similar manner to the system disclosed in Fig. 1. According to the Office Action, Blackmon discloses a link hub 42 and a link bus comprising lines 112, 114, 120, 122, 124, and 126. It is respectfully submitted that this conclusion is in error. The device 42 is the "Response Combining Logic" and the recited lines (112, 114, 120, 122, 124, and 126) are merely a portion of the plurality of status lines which couple bus devices (72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, and 86). As can be plainly seen in Fig. 3 and described at columns 5-6, Blackmon discloses a plurality of bus devices 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, and 86 which are each coupled using a point-to-point bus comprising of point-to-point segments 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, and 102. The system of Fig. 3 includes a switch 34, which is directly coupled to each of the bus devices 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, and 86. None of the status lines (104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134) are coupled to the switch 34. Thus, Blackmon fails to disclose or suggest a link bus which comprises "a status line and a first bus" as required by the above-recited portions of claims 1, 18, 20, 30, 37, 56, and 65. The only connection between switch 34 and the Response Combining Logic 42 is via line 44. That is, each status line in Blackmon's system is indirectly connected to switch 34 via Response Combining Logic 42. Accordingly, Blackmon also fails to disclose or suggest a "said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus" (emphasis supplied) (as required by independent claims 1, 18, 20, 30), or "a link bus directly connected between said link hub and said satellite device" (emphasis supplied) (as required by independent claim 37, 56, and 65).

The Office Action additionally cites to Houg for its teaching of observing data transfer status on a bus during the data transfer. However, like Blackmon, Houg also

fails to disclose or suggest the above recited features of independent claims 1, 18, 20, 30, 37, 56, and 65.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 18, 20, 30, 37, 56, and 65 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. The depending claims (i.e., claims 2-17, 19, 21-29, 31-36, 38-55, 57-64, and 66-69) are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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